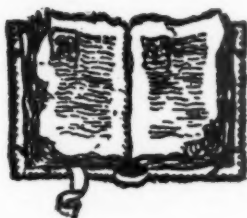


ARKANSAS LIBRARIES



TAX CAMPAIGNS

Vol. 5, Series II

July 1948

Number 1

Issued Quarterly

ARKANSAS LIBRARY COMMISSION

In Co-operation With

ARKANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Arkansas Libraries

Vol. 5, Series II

July 1948

Number 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COUNTY LIBRARY TAX CAMPAIGN.....	3
METHODS TO USE FOR LIBRARY PUBLICITY	7
LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTACT	8
GETTING INTO PRINT	8
DOES A COUNTY LIBRARY NEED A LEGAL ONE MILL TAX?, by Mrs. Jessie Bach	9
OZARKS REGIONAL LIBRARY PLANS TAX CAMPAIGN, by Miss Lucile Lucas ..	10
DO YOU KNOW WHAT A BICYCLE LIBRARY IS?	11
CRAIGHEAD COUNTY LIBRARY WORKSHOP HELD	12
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, by Mrs. Catharine Chew and Mrs. Beatrice Hardcastle	12
LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS	15
SOUTHWESTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	16
NEWS NOTES	18

ARKANSAS LIBRARY COMMISSION

Miss Pearl Williamson, Chairman	DeQueen
Mrs. Merlin Moore	Little Rock
R. H. Moore	Jonesboro
J. E. Howard	Clarendon
Mrs. I. C. Oxner	McGehee
Mrs. M. F. Kirby	Rogers
Mrs. C. E. Mosely	Camden

Irene Mason, Executive Secretary and Librarian

ARKANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Miss Hazel Deal, President	North Arkansas Regional Library
Miss Leila Heasley, Vice-President	Arkansas Library Commission
Miss Evie Shaw, Secretary	Arkansas State Teachers College
Mrs. Hardie V. Sorrels, Treasurer	Brinkley High School Library
Miss Myrtle Roush, Member-at-large	Arkansas Polytechnic College

COUNTY LIBRARY TAX CAMPAIGN

YES OR NO?

Many factors are to be considered when a county decides to put on a tax campaign for support of the library.

The success of the campaign depends on what the voting citizens of the community think of the library. What the public thinks does not depend solely on the character of the books and the services rendered, but, also, on what the library does to make its services and materials known to everyone. No better or more inexpensive publicity is possible than the good opinion of readers passed on by word of mouth. Actually the time to start preparing is long before the campaign is even thought of, for a good service record and a continuous publicity program cannot be over estimated. Under these circumstances it is not necessary to establish important contacts impromptu. Good publicity methods have already been established and are now familiar to the constituents. A Library Week once a year in no way substitutes for three hundred and sixty-five library days. No library can expect a successful campaign unless good service has been given to the patrons. The exception to this is true where the attention and hopes of the public are centered on the establishment of library service or the improvement of the present services as contrasted to those in the past.

Whether or not the library shall undertake a campaign is often decided not on the merits of the case but on the attitudes of the librarian, the trustees, and the feeling of the general public. The reaction of the public can be obtained by talking to and enlisting the help of a few key people such as the county judges, the county school superintendents, the home demonstration agents, and the presidents of the county-wide rural organizations. It is a compliment to be brought into the movement in the beginning. If there are other librarians and trustees in the region they, too, should be approached. Present the subject to several of the important organizations, to the county council representing social groups of a welfare nature, or, if you have no such standing council, call a meeting of the county-wide organizations from all parts of the county. A general meeting of this type would be a good time to invite some one from the Arkansas Library Commission. Be sure to leave plenty of time for questions and discussions. If the sentiment is favorable and the library board decides to ask the community for tax support, a campaign is clearly necessary and it should be gone into fearlessly, intelligently, and with the determination to win.

COMMITTEES

One of the first things necessary is the appointment of a campaign committee. The personnel of this committee is very important. A library board member usually serves, but it is not necessary to have all of them, nor do you need to have the representative of the library act as chairman. The librarian should be kept in the background as much as possible for she, ever more than the library board members, is thought of as having a vested interest in the finances of the library. The bulk of her work is done behind the scenes. Taking these factors into consideration it is deemed advisable to use a large number of lay people having no direct connection with the institution. Bring in all interested persons who are

willing to work. Be sure you have some one from every part of the area and that you have people whose judgment is well respected as well as leaders from widely representative groups and interests. Make certain all activities, all classes of people, and the different church affiliations in the community are included. The actual Campaign Committee need not include representatives of all the organizations. It would probably be a good thing to have these people serve as an Advisory Committee along with the people who may be included chiefly for reasons of policy so that influential individuals and groups will not feel themselves ignored.

One of the first things the committee will want to do is to select a chairman. They should be very careful in their choice for he is the official source of news and information about the library, the ambassador of good will from the library to the public. If possible, the person chosen for this important job should be one who understands the library,—its structure, policies, program, and procedures, and, one who also knows methods of developing publicity, for it is his job to present the problem in such a way that the general public can immediately see its value thus recognizing the need for the financial support of the library. In addition, the chairman should be genuinely interested, ready and willing to work and one whose name will count all over the county, particularly among the rural people. This is important for the success of the campaign depends on the support of the entire county, not a few key places.

The committee should be organized on a functional basis so that it can encourage and guide the activities. Sub-committees are needed to give everyone an opportunity to share in the work. The size of these committees depends on the amount of work they are expected to accomplish.

These sub-committees will probably include one for publicity. If necessary, this committee could assign separate duties to its members. For instance, one person could be in charge of the newspaper work, another of the films, another of various other visual aids such as show window displays, circulars, posters, and like materials.

The Petition or Canvassing committee could be assigned on a geographical basis, again it is vitally important that the entire community be covered. Only one hundred signatures are necessary on the petition. The signers must be people who hold a poll tax and also pay tax on personal or real property. They should sign as their name appears on the poll book, for instance, if Mrs. Mary Smith signs her name as such on the poll book but Mrs. Howard Smith on the petition, her name is void. A good method of preventing this is to get the list of poll tax payers from the court house, take it along, and check names as signatures are obtained. Although the law requires only one hundred signers it has been recommended that each county have at least two hundred and fifty thus insuring the necessary number in case of error in name, poll tax payment, or, lack of ownership of personal or real property which is taxable. This is an excellent time to do an important piece of publicity. It is necessary to explain all angles of the situation in order to impress the individual with the importance of his signing. Each signer should be a vote in favor of the tax. Once again it is a compliment to be singled out as one requested to sign when so few signatures are needed, only one hundred in the entire county.

The Speakers' committee could be made up of board members, influential citizens, and school people. Many times volunteers will be glad to help make talks to various groups and organizations if they are provided

with the proper talking points and general authentic information based on the needs of their particular county. This material could be mimeographed and distributed rather freely. Speech classes and high school students are a good group to co-operate in this line. They are also a good source for debates on such topics as "Why we should have a tax supported library" or talks on "What the library means to me and how I expect it to affect my future." The librarian should be available to talk on the services of the library.

If on election day all workers were to consider themselves a member of the Transportation Committee it would be a great deal of help. Many people are in favor of the tax and willing to vote for it but it may not be convenient for them to get to the polls. If some one could pick them up it would enable them to cast their vote.

Make certain, too, that the people who are working at the voting places are thoroughly informed. This may be accomplished by sending letters and making personal visits to the judges and clerks. Frequently they are asked questions and their answer may be a vote for or against the library.

ORGANIZATION OF CAMPAIGN

The organization period is perhaps one of the most critical of all stages of the movement. It requires slow, careful, tactful work. Allow plenty of time and thought for it. The best publicity will be wasted later on if the foundations are not firmly built on the right leadership and on the best public opinion in the county. The movement must be one of the people, and especially of the rural people. Above all things do not count on one or two places to put over the vote.

All committee members should be familiar enough with their subject to convince others. They should have all the facts and figures concerning the library and the community at their finger tips. This information includes not only the services of the library as well as financial figures which express the needs of the library, but also those relative to tax rates and the ability of the community to pay. The "library family" should be ready and able to answer promptly and satisfactorily all questions about library work and to serve as a radiating point for sentiment favorable to increased library support. Copies of the state law permitting counties to establish county-wide library service and the amendment allowing them to vote a tax for its support may be obtained from the Arkansas Library Commission.

PUBLICITY

The next steps are to decide on the kind of advertising you will want to use, to figure the costs of these various types of publicity, and to decide where the money will come from. If possible, friends of the library or various organizations could provide for some of the more expensive types, such as that in the newspapers. In which case the advertisement should include a notation which states the name of the organization or the individual who contributed the space. This serves a double or two fold purpose. It forestalls any criticism the library might possibly receive from irate taxpayers and shows the citizens the library has backers who are strongly interested in its welfare.

Estimate the amount of money the library will now receive for its budget. Show how this money will be spent and what it will mean to the community in increased services, such as more books, new branches, extension of library service and what not. What the proposed program will accomplish should be made clear, concise and specific. Taxpayers object to voting money for indefinite objects, therefore it is necessary to explain these points thoroughly. Services of the library are stressed first, last, and always. Show the value of books and reading, the need of public libraries to supplement individual ownership of books, and the general program of the county library. A strong motive for appeal has been found to be the desire for opportunity for the children. Business men are now beginning to see the economic advantages of good library service. They now realize increased knowledge in the workers' field or a relative subject makes better workers, better workers mean advancement and higher salaries and higher salaries naturally lead to greater buying power. Stress, therefore, "equalization of library opportunity" or "equalization of education advantages and opportunities." When defects are noted it is clearly shown how they are due in the main part to a lack of sufficient funds. In fact, it would not be amiss if preliminary publicity as to the needs of the library would be carried on before the announcement is made that the library is planning a campaign.

After the finances are settled the group will undoubtedly lay general plans. State your issues explicitly in the very beginning. A simple, clear-cut statement cannot be over-emphasized. Several issues will confuse the public and allow for objections to different parts of the program, thus permitting common opposition to unite, and antagonize the general public. Poll tax payers object to voting for what they do not clearly understand.

If possible a plan of action should be worked out. Make a schedule of things to be done and decide on the dates for doing them. See that the entire "library family" is so well informed on the program of events that they can supply the information on very short notice. Most authorities claim the actual drive should last a month to six weeks. A long drawn out affair is apt to become monotonous and cause the people to lose interest.

Now is the time to get in touch with the organizations, schools, individuals, and publication editors who have promised to co-operate. The more people and organizations you can get working for and backing the library the better are your chances for success. Enlist as many groups as possible for this increases the amount of help you will be able to receive, adds to and stimulates interest, and shows the people that a large number of citizens are vitally interested. Organizations can be most helpful in furnishing mailing lists, and by allowing someone to appear at their meetings to explain the library situation. Frequently they can arrange conferences, joint meetings, or forums where the people can get together and discuss the problem. In trying to reach a certain group be sure to have them contacted by a person who belongs to that group or class. It is much better to have a business man approach business men. He can speak their language and talk to them intelligently from his own point of view and experiences. Send a social leader to those who have social positions. This principle holds true in most cases. Actual knowledge of your organizations, people, and community will help decide each case.

When your organizations and individuals have been approached and approve of the plan be sure to get their endorsement. Getting these

endorsements is not enough, you should also see that they are announced in the papers. When prominent converts are made these too, should be highly publicized.

LAST MINUTE HINTS

Just before election day bring all your publicity to a close, pass out circulars explaining the needs of the library and showing how to mark the ballot for the library tax. State law forbids the circulating of sample ballots. Telephone to get out as many voters as possible. Check on poll tax lists and see that everyone has the measure explained personally. Make certain they will vote *for* the measure and that they understand that their failing to mark the ballot *for* the tax results in a vote against the measure.

On election day provide automobiles as an inducement for the voter who is only luke warm on the proposition and as a convenience for those who cannot get there otherwise. Make arrangements to relieve persons in charge of children or sick people. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc. can man the approach to the polls with a sample ballot. Be sure that the people working at the election box are thoroughly informed and, if possible in sympathy with the library.

METHODS TO USE FOR LIBRARY PUBLICITY

The following summary is suggested as an aid in checking various means of publicizing your library.

I. In co-operation with the newspapers

1. Frequent short articles
2. News and human interest stories
3. Annual reports
4. Endorsement
5. Favorable interviews
6. Feature stories, with illustrations if possible
7. Instructions to voters with sample ballot showing vote for tax
8. Editorials

II. In co-operation with the schools

1. Plays on libraries and library service
2. Contests Book reviews
Poster Slogans
Bookmarks
3. Debates
4. Themes on what the library means to me, or,
What books mean to me

5. Children take letters and circulars to their parents

6. Voting by children on favorite book

7. Visits by classes to the library

III. Personal letters or postal cards

IV. Broadslides, leaflets, folders and circulars

- V. Talks at every meeting in the county; illustrated with films or slides, if possible

VI. Radio broadcasts

VII. Posters or placards in buses, store and house windows in every part of the county

VIII. Slides or films at the moving picture houses

IX. Slogans (from school contests) on automobiles and delivery trucks

X. Billboards

XI. Tags or buttons "I'm for a county library" or "I'm going to vote YES for the county library"

XII. Exhibits in store windows

XIII. Bulletin boards

- XIV. Hold open house at the library
- XV. Book lists
- XVI. Invite organizations to visit the library as a group
- XVII. Book talks
- XVIII. Boys and girls visit neighbors and business houses asking for their co-operation and support.
- XIX. Bookmarks
- XX. Programs in the library, schools, classes and clubs.

These may include speeches by children, announcement of contest winners, or the reading or prize essays.

- XXI. Book contests naming authors, titles, characters, plots and answering other questions.
- XXII. Book reviews and book exhibits
- XXIII. Announcements in churches

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTACT

Groups and organizations with which to work automatically fall into one of three classes:

- I. Natural Allies
 - Parent-Teacher Association
 - American Association of University Women
 - General Federation of Women's Club
 - League of Women Voters
 - Business and Professional Women
 - Farm Bureau
 - Home Bureau
 - The Grange
 - Four H Clubs
 - County Teachers Association
 - County School Boards
 - School Masters Club
- II. Sympathetic Societies
 - Service clubs such as Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary and Pilot Clubs
 - Chamber of Commerce

- Livestock, horticultural and other farm associations
- County ministerial associations
- American Legion and Legion Auxiliary
- Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls
- Red Cross
- Women's Christian Temperance Union
- Young Men's Christian Association and Young Women's Christian Association
- Fraternal organizations and lodges
- Sunday schools, Christian endeavors, and missionary societies
- Future Farmers of America.
- III. Opposed groups
 - Tax paying groups
 - Economic organizations interested in keeping down taxes.

GETTING INTO PRINT

It has been said one of the most important types of library publicity is that secured through the local newspapers.

Newspaper publicity of the right kind meets four requirements. It must be accurate, timely, interesting, and significant. The writing of news articles should be practical and convey information. It must

be clear, concise, simple, and easily understood. It should make the reader see it, read it, believe it, and be willing to do something about it. Good news stories should always include who, what, when, where, why, and how. Use these ideas in the order of their importance. Be accurate, always check dates, spelling of names and other

details carefully. Be brief, put the gist of the story in the first paragraph, and an important idea at the beginning of each sentence.

If good service is expected it is only fair that the writer co-operate by sending the editor correct copy. The following suggestions will help:

Have a spokesman call on the editor and offer to furnish news concerning the library. Find out how he prefers to have the copy submitted and how often he wants to print the news. Get the day and time of day he wants the library material turned in.

Typewrite, if possible.

Use 8½"x11" paper.

Write on one side of the paper only.

Double or triple space.

In the upper left hand corner of page one type the name of the library; name, position and telephone number of the person sending in the story; and release date, including day, month, date, and year i. e. Thursday July 1, 1948.

Leave generous margins.

Do not hyphenate at the end of a line. Always begin the whole word on the next line.

Number all pages.

DOES A COUNTY LIBRARY NEED A LEGAL ONE MILL TAX?

By

Mrs. Jessie Bach¹

In most cases the answer is in the affirmative for as we evaluate the services we are giving our community we may ask "Do we own a strong, well selected and up to date reference collection—do we own a large central collection of books, a few good ones on any subject, or do we, if we have call for a trade book or any title that is not used too frequently have to send out an S O S to the State Library Commission (it is almost miraculous how quickly they reply). This should be our aim if we are to make friends of our patrons, for if one can find the desired information at the time it is needed most a lasting impression is made on the usefulness of the library.

It has been said that "Librarianship is the only calling that devotes itself to bringing books into the daily life of the work-a-day world."

The service a library can give is limited only by the vision of the people in the county who realize that ways and means of carrying on this work must be provided.

In some counties a voluntary one mill tax is levied and in Jackson County the amount collected from this tax has increased each year for four years but a ONE MILL VOLUNTARY TAX is not enough to meet the needs of a good modern library for this tax is paid mainly by public spirited persons, men and women, (their names should be recorded in the annals of the county's history) who are anxious to provide for every person the education obtainable through reading that they might "BECOME something instead of having something".

The library's claim for public support rests upon the fact that it renders a service in which ALL may participate and if ALL are entitled to participate in this service then it follows that all should pay a like amount—that is the only fair way. If there may be a few persons opposed to this small tax it would be well for them to pause and consider whether or not

¹ Mrs. Bach is the librarian of the Jackson County Library, Newport, Arkansas.

it is economy to deny some child or friend the use of good books.

Since a library is a social agency with double relationship to books and people and since the library not only supplements the school but is a continuing agency should

we not have a legal one mill tax, enabling a library that is striving to give as adequate service as possible to expand its facilities, adding Audio-Visual Equipment and other new techniques bringing it up to the desired status?

OZARKS REGIONAL LIBRARY PLANS TAX CAMPAIGN

By

Lucille Lucas¹

At present we are trying to lay a strong foundation for a speedy fall program. The variety of our library service is the emphasis which we wish to make with our public. In the eye of the majority the two chief services of our library is to supplement our school libraries and to furnish recreational reading. Important as are these aspects, they are by no means its entirety or its full significance. The adult education service and its many indirect benefits are reiterated. This you can see in our publications, "HAVE YOU PAID YOUR POLL TAX?" and "THE CASE OF THE REGIONAL LIBRARY".

The first newspaper report of the library tax campaign came in April in an account of a library board meeting in Ozark. In this article was a list of the board members, who are reliable and energetic leaders. Committees were also appointed for the following activities and time for activities designated 1. Circulating petitions (July) 2. Personal contacts with key people in townships (September and October) 3. Speeches at organizations (September and October) 4. Paid advertising (October) 5. Editorials in all newspapers. There are four members on each committee.

At the next board meeting in May plans were laid for "Friends of the Library Meeting" to be held

in Charleston, Ozark, and Clarksville at 8:00 p. m., June 29, July 1, and July 2. The purpose of these meetings is educational in that the story of our library is presented and practical in that petition circulators are started on their way. All citizens are invited. In other words, it is a kick-off meeting for the campaign, with a program as follows:

Welcome and Introduction to Program, by Chairman of the Board

The Case of the Ozarks Regional Library and Its Significance to our Communities, by Mr. F. E. McAnear, Manager, Clarksville Chamber of Commerce
Movies: "Books and People"; "The Wealth Within" and "Its All Yours"

Petitions and Their Circulation, by Chairman of Local Petition Committee

At these meetings will be distributed the mimeographed copies of "The Case of the Ozarks Regional Library" and "Have You Paid your Poll Tax?"

We have made a great effort to increase our newspaper publicity and book exhibits. A booklist on "Books for Worship, Handicrafts, and Games for Vacation Church Schools" was distributed to many

¹ Miss Lucas is librarian of the Ozarks Regional Library, Clarksville, Arkansas.

ministers and teachers in our region. An exhibit with poster, etc. has been used in two churches.

The Ozark Branch is distributing a list of and commentaries on cook books at the local grocery stores.

Funds are needed here for our publicity, so Mr. Leslie Bryant, member of our Board, has volunteered to get contributions up to \$150. So far, \$80.00 has been contributed. This is a big boost to our morale as well as our pocket book.

"This is just about as far as we can go." We hope to continue good newspaper publicity and in parti-

cular to write an article on "What the Newcomers Think of the Ozarks Regional Library" (if remarks are favorable.) In this and other articles we use names of patrons representing a wide region and variety of occupations. Our committees indicate other activities planned.

Of course the greatest difficulty is finding time for this important public service, because our usual routine cannot be interrupted for long. What our chances are for success in November, no one knows. We can only use every opportunity to speak the "Case of the Ozarks Regional Library".

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A BICYCLE LIBRARY IS?*

There seems to be a new piece of standard equipment for bicycles these days.

Bicycles, that is, owned by teenage boys.

We've seen dozens of them around Wynne equipped with comic books.

That's right. Comic books.

Every schoolboy seems to carry a supply in the handlebar basket. When he stops to wait for a pal, or to rest under a shade tree, he reaches into his "library," pulls out a "Captain Killer Diller" comic book, and reads.

Some people never get the reading habit. They go through their whole life and never really enjoy reading. The joy of reading, if it comes at all, generally comes during our teens. It is a time of great reading discovery. Most grown-ups who really enjoy reading, can look back to their childhood when they first learned the thrill of books. They can remember when they could hardly stop reading long enough to eat.

A lot of kids in Wynne are learning the thrill or reading.

They're getting their kicks out of comic books.

There's no point here in going into the obvious shortcomings of comic books as literature. Some people say comic books are a cause of delinquency and crime. Some people say they distort a kid's moral values.

We say only that comic books should not be substituted for the exciting books and stories that are in every library.

But during the summer, Wynne has no library.

These kids have no choice.

All through the school year teachers in Wynne schools try to show their pupils the joy of the reading habit. And to some extent they are successful. But during each summer, whatever good they've done is destroyed. You can't keep a habit by giving it a three-month vacation every year.

Wynne needs a library—the year around.

* Editorial in WYNNE (ARKANSAS) STAR. Reprinted with permission of Victor K. Ray, Editor.

CRAIGHEAD COUNTY LIBRARY WORKSHOP HELD

Fifty-three teacher and student-librarians attended the Craighead County Library Workshop held on Friday, August 13, in the Union Avenue Chapel of the Jonesboro First Methodist Church. The workshop was sponsored by the Public Library of Jonesboro and Craighead County with Miss Leila Heasley, School Library Consultant of the Arkansas State Library Commission, assisted by Miss Elizabeth Malone, Craighead Librarian, in charge.

Miss Heasley led discussions on Library Housekeeping and publicity. Miss Malone led a short discussion of circulation reports and library records. Three films, "It's All Yours," "How to Use the Library" and "How to Read a Book" were shown. There were displays

of books, inexpensive book shelves, and pictures from the Commission.

The teacher-librarians attending the workshop were: Miss Thelma Byrd, Caraway; Mrs. Sue McDaniels, Cash; Mrs. Opal Walters, Jonesboro Senior High School; Mrs. K. L. Peters, Lake City; Mrs. Miller, Valley View; Mrs. Garner, Dixie; and Mrs. Stella Wilburn, Brookland. Student librarians attending were from the above schools and also Bono, Childress, and Nettleton. Miss Dorothy Fenton, librarian at Arkansas State College, Miss Lenora Norman, Craighead County Library Bookmobile Assistant, Mrs. Lawrence, a teacher of the Nettleton School, and Mrs. A. L. Malone attended the workshop.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 67TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—June 13-19, 1948

Report by
Catharine Chew and Beatrice Hardcastle
Little Rock Public Library

"Librarians as guardians of the printed page have a terrific responsibility", said Paul North Rice, President of the American Library Association, in his opening address at the 67th Conference of the Association in Atlantic City. "Libraries must have and display and stimulate the reading of books, pamphlets and periodicals so as to make it difficult for anyone within their spans of influence to re-

main ignorant or apathetic about the great issues of our time."

On this challenging note the Conference of 4000 Librarians from the United States and its territories began on June 13, and in the five succeeding days librarians, educators and authors discussed the responsibility of the librarian in promoting popular understanding of world affairs and expressed alarm at the growing danger of censorship of books in libraries.

GENERAL SESSIONS

"The Challenge of Public Affairs" was the theme of the Conference. This was also the title of Pearl Buck's address at the First General Session on June 13. Pearl

Buck is not only a Nobel prize winner and the author of numerous books with a Chinese background but is also president of the East and West Association. Her ad-

dress was a moving plea for world understanding, understanding that reaches to the heart and is not merely a phrase rolling glibly off the tongue. Her knowledge of oriental people and her perception of the tragedy of militancy and provincialism were communicated to the audience. She urged librarians to see that books and other materials that would enlighten our communities about other countries and their civilizations should be provided, not only provided, but that the library do everything possible to see that the books are read, even if it is necessary for the library to enter the field of teaching people because of indifference to the banning of books, the first sign of a dictator. "If people don't read, if they consider themselves too busy to read, it means they can't read easily enough to enjoy reading. How dangerously this inability to read is linked up with censorship! For non-reading people will be careless about book bans and book control when they do not consider books essential to them. A non-reading public is the very material for book censorship. But if any people are too ignorant to know what is happening to them, then it is easy to put out the lamps one by one. The people will not perceive the increasing darkness".

It is the custom for the newly inaugurated president of the American Library Association to make his address at the final meeting of the Association. The new president, Errett W. McDiarmid, Librarian of the University of Minnesota Library, emphasized the fact that although Americans

are the most literate people in the world, we are not a truly educated people. He called for "a crusade for an educated America" and advised librarians to make a particular effort to reach the leaders in the community and provide books which they need.

At this same session Norman Cousins, editor of the *SATURDAY REVIEW OF LITERATURE*, made a talk on the great issues of the day. Mr. Cousins refused to attempt to name all the great issues but one thing he was sure of—that we must learn to control atomic energy before it destroys us. Mr. Cousins was at the Bikini bombing and has not forgotten its terrifying effect. When asked what could be done about the situation today, he said librarians could join the United World Federalists.

At one of the two other general sessions Dr. Robert Leigh, director of the Public Library Inquiry undertaken by the Carnegie Corporation, scheduled to be published in a year and a half, advocated vigorous opposition to book censorship and said too many librarians follow the prudent policy of bowing quickly to pressures by removing books that are questioned by local pressure groups. Dr. Leigh advocated the development of group action in resisting improper pressures. The A. L. A. is following this policy in organizing Committees for Intellectual Freedom within the organization. The recent banning and seizure of books in Philadelphia was cited as an example of the sort of censorship which might sweep the country.

SECTIONAL MEETINGS

The number of sectional meetings every day at the A. L. A. meeting are bewildering to the inexperienced delegate to a convention. Sometimes it is necessary to

choose between several meetings, all of which would be valuable and interesting.

These sectional meetings covered such problems as in-service train-

ing, selection and handling of government documents, publicity for the library, projects for young people, reference work, the art collec-

tion, extension service to rural people. In these meetings the practical side of library problems rather than the theoretical aspect was uppermost.

NEWBERY-CALDECOTT AWARDS

The big dinner of the Convention is always the Newbery-Caldecott award dinner at which medals are given for the most distinguished children's books of the year. This year the youthful Mr. William Pene Du Bois, who won the Newbery medal for TWENTY-ONE

BALLONS, described his life as a schoolboy in France and indicated that he will continue to write books about islands. Roger Duvoisin, winner of the Caldecott award for WHITE SNOW, BRIGHT SNOW, was in Paris but talked to the meeting by a one-way cable connection.

EXHIBITS

Everyone who attends a convention regrets that there is never enough time to look at exhibits. This year the exhibits were outstanding. So much space was available in the large Convention Hall in Atlantic City that there were actually two bookmobiles right on the main floor. The smaller one was a Ford Vanette model with inside shelves holding approximately 1500 books. The larger was constructed by the Gerstenslager company for the Canton, Ohio Public Library. It had both inside and outside shelves and held between three and four thousand books. Outside the building was parked the 10-ton trailmobile belonging to Youngstown, Ohio which held 4000 books and was illuminated with fluorescent lighting. The Youngstown trailer was equipped with a Recordak Junior Microfilmer which is rented from the company for \$15.00 a month. It is used to speed charging by photographing the book pocket, date card, and reader's identification card. A book card is not needed. The film is sent to the Recordak company daily for developing. Remington Rand has a similar machine, a

photocharger, which is sold rather than rented. These companies say that this new charging method will save much time, is more accurate, and is rapidly being adopted in many libraries. Another trend toward mechanizing the charging system is found in the intricate I. B. M. charging equipment used in such large public libraries as Newark and New York.

The increasing use of films, records, and microfilms was indicated by the variety of exhibits in these fields. Books on microfilm were projected on the ceiling of the exhibit room to show how they can be used with hospital patients and shut-ins. Each day there was a showing of documentary films from 12 to 130, on which varied subjects as libraries, Scotland, instruments of the orchestra, the American square dance, and a powerful imaginative film of what the next war would bring called "Where Will We Hide?"

Book publishers and their representatives were present with attractive displays and trade catalogs. An exhibit of special interest was the Combined Book Exhibit. A list of the books displayed may be obtained by writing:

Combined Book Exhibit
950 University Avenue
New York 52, New York

All in all the delegates to a five-day convention are mentally and physically exhausted by the end of the fifth day. Never the less, contact with other members of a great profession, some inkling of national trends, emphasis on the end

and not the means of library service prove an exhilarating experience.

Next year the A. L. A. will have several regional meetings rather than a large single meeting. This should enable many more librarians to attend. It is an experiment which the Association hopes will succeed.

LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

Adopted by Council of the American Library Association at Atlantic City on June 18, 1948.

The Council of the American Library Association reaffirms its belief in the following basic policies which should govern the services of all libraries:

1. As a responsibility of library service, books and other reading matter selected should be chosen for values of interest, information and enlightenment of all the people of the community. In no case should any book be excluded because of the race or nationality, or the political or religious views of the writer.

2. There should be the fullest practicable provision of material presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national, and local; and books or other reading matter of sound factual authority should not be proscribed or removed from library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

3. Censorship of books, urged or practiced by volunteer arbiters of morals or political opinion or by organizations that would establish a coercive concept of Americanism, must be challenged by libraries in maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment through the printed word.

4. Libraries should enlist the cooperation of allied groups in the fields of science, of education, and of book publishing in resisting all abridgment of the free access to ideas and full freedom of expression that are the tradition and heritage of Americans.

5. As an institution of education for democratic living, the library should welcome the use of its meeting rooms for socially useful and cultural activities and discussion of current public questions. Such meeting places should be available on equal terms to all groups in the community regardless of the beliefs and affiliations of their members.

SOUTHWESTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Southwestern Library Association will hold their biennial meeting October 31-November 4 in New Orleans with the Roosevelt Hotel as headquarters.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Sunday

Oct. 31

2:00-3:00 p. m. Registration

3:00-6:00 p. m. Dedi-

cation of Memorial

Library New Orleans Public

Library and tea for

visitors

8:00 p. m. General Session

Monday

Nov. 1

8:30-10:00 a. m.

Tour of cemeteries

with All Saints Day

Decorations. Bus

fare \$1.50

10:30-12:00 a. m.

Business

12:30-2:00 p. m.

Luncheons

2:00-4:00 p. m.

General Session

4:30-6:00 p. m.

State meetings

8:00 p. m. Free

for sectional

meetings

Tuesday

Nov. 2

9:00-12:00 a. m.

Sectional meetings

12:30-12:00 p. m.,

Luncheon Friends
of Libraries

2:30-5:30 p. m.

Tour of New Orleans

Bus fare \$3

8:00 p. m. Book

Dinner

Dress optional

Wednesday

Nov. 3

8:30-10:00 a. m.

Business session

10:30-12:00 a. m.

General session

Post-Conference

Clinic on Library

Demonstrations

2:00-5:00 p. m.

Preliminary

plans for a

Demonstration

8:00-10:30 p. m.

Service during

demonstration

Thursday

Nov. 4

8:30-5:00

Field trip to

Parish library

near New Orleans

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SECTION

Monday Nov. 1
10:00 A. M.

New horizons in work with young people

Speakers: Helen Ferris-----Social significance of children's books today
Siri Andrews-----Reading problems of youth

Other speakers to be announced

TUESDAY NOV.
12:00 Noon

Speaker-----Helen Ferris

POST-CONFERENCE

Post-Conference Clinic on Library Demonstrations. Miss Sallie Farrell, Chairman, Extension and Federal Aid Committee, Southwestern Library Association, announces that the clinic will begin Wednesday afternoon with meetings in the afternoon and evening at the Roosevelt Hotel. Participants in the Clinic will have an opportunity on Thursday, November 4, to visit a parish library near New Orleans. Members of the staff

of the Louisiana State Library will conduct this field trip. If there are sufficient participants, a bus will be chartered. If not, the State Library will provide transportation. Return from this trip should not be later than five p. m., giving ample time for the following train connections: Illinois Central at eight-thirty p. m., Southern Pacific at either eight p. m. or eleven p. m., and Texas and Pacific at eleven p. m.

NEWS NOTES

ARKANSAS LIBRARY COMMISSION. The new home of the Commission will be in the Wrape Building at 506½ Center Street. Moving day will be about September 1. Mrs. Frances Neal has resigned as Loan Assistant effective September 1. Mrs. Neal will teach the third grade in Garland school. Mrs. Elsa Williams, cataloger, has also resigned. Mrs. Williams is moving to Atlanta, Georgia.

HEMPSTEAD COUNTY LIBRARY. Hope's new Public Library Building is to be formally dedicated with an open house on July 20. Supplementing the original gift of \$20.00 the people of Hope raised funds by subscription to buy new equipment for the library. Mrs. Hazel Prichard is county librarian.

WHITE COUNTY LIBRARY. A new bookmobile secured by do-

nations from the Parent-Teacher Association, Home Demonstration clubs, school districts, and individuals will begin service the first week in September. Miss Ellen Key, county librarian, is in Peabody enrolled in library school for the summer.

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY LIBRARY. A drive is now underway in Mississippi County for funds to build a library building. This building will not only serve as headquarters for service to the county but will also have an auditorium for the use of civic clubs and other groups. Miss Eula McDougal is county librarian.

JACKSON COUNTY. Mrs. Jessie Bach, county librarian, is very happy over a record player which was given the library by the McDowell Club.

Miss Hazel B. Warren
Chief, Extension Service
Indiana State Library
Indianapolis, Ind.



